

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 22-1377V

NICOLE BRICKHOUSE,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: December 20, 2024

Laura Levenberg, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.

Michael Joseph Lang, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On September 26, 2022, Nicole Brickhouse filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). that she suffered a Table injury – shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as the result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccination received on December 10, 2019. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On May 13, 2024, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On December 18, 2024, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$87,500.00 in pain and suffering. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$87,500.00 (representing pain and suffering), in the form of a check payable to Petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| NICOLE BRICKHOUSE, |) | |
| |) | |
| |) | |
| Petitioner, |) | |
| |) | No. 22-1377V |
| v. |) | Chief Special Master Corcoran |
| |) | ECF |
| SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN |) | |
| SERVICES, |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |
| |) | |

RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On September 26, 2022, Nicole Brickhouse (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), alleging that she suffered a Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table, following administration of an influenza vaccine she received on December 10, 2019. Petition at 1. On May 7, 2024, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report indicating that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a SIRVA Table injury, and on May 13, 2024, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 30; ECF No. 33.

I. Items of Compensation

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$87,500.00 in pain and suffering.

See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following¹: a lump sum payment of \$87,500.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

III. Summary of Recommended Payment Following Judgment

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Lump sum payable to petitioner, Nicole Brickhouse: | \$87,500.00 |
|--|--------------------|

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO
Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

TRACI R. PATTON
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

¹ Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future lost earnings and future pain and suffering.

s/ Michael J. Lang
MICHAEL J. LANG
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch, Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146
Tel: (202) 880-0239
Email: Michael.Lang3@usdoj.gov

Dated: December 18, 2024